



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

DARWIN L.D. CHING, DIRECTOR
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-8844
Fax: (808) 586-9099

MR 2008 08

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2008

**STATE TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE COUNSELING TO LAID OFF
AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

HONOLULU – The state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the state will provide supportive counseling to employees and their families affected by the closure of Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines. Supportive services will be provided by the state Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD).

"Given the sudden and unannounced closures of Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines and the resulting impact the loss of jobs may be having on the employees and their families, we need to do what we can as a community to help people cope on an emotional and mental level," said Darwin L.D. Ching. "In addition to the social services we are providing, such as unemployment insurance and job placement assistance, we feel it is also necessary to provide supportive services to these employees and their families to further assist them during this time of transition."

Aloha Airlines and ATA Airlines employees and their families may call the ACCESS Line at 832-3100 on O'ahu, or 1-800-753-6879 toll-free from the Neighbor Islands. Individuals must identify themselves as Aloha or ATA employees or a family member in order to access these services. Individuals will not need to formally register, and can be identified anonymously. Services are provided at no charge.

“After a sudden layoff, it’s normal to feel frustrated and fearful. People shouldn’t feel alone, without help and support. We encourage those affected to talk openly with trusted friends, family, medical professionals and clergy. Help is also available through our ACCESS Line” stated Dr. Chiyome Fukino, Director of Health.

The DOH will also provide services around the state at the various community health centers. Additionally, DOH counselors will be available at a job fair scheduled for tomorrow, April 9, 12:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, in the Hawai‘i Suite #9.

#####

For more information, contact:

Dr. Thomas Hester
Chief, Adult Mental Health Division
Department of Health
Phone (808) 586-4770
Fax: (808) 586-8271

James P. Hardway
Special Assistant to the Director
Phone: (808) 586-8845
Cell: (808) 282-7859
Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: jhardway@hawaii.gov